period. Thereafter, the system calculates benefit payments corresponding to the selected

retirement benefits to the person during and after the conversion period, wherein the benefit

payments during the conversion period [is] are from contributions made from the assets and the

purchased benefits, and the benefit payments after the conversion period are provided by the

purchased benefits.

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A method for providing a person with a secure[d] retirement program

using assets owned by said person, comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one desired [retirement] benefit for retirement from a group of

available [retirement] benefits;

specifying a conversion period for allocating a desired portion of said assets to

said selected benefits during said conversion period;

allocating portions of said assets among investment vehicles and towards

purchasing a fraction of said selected benefits at selected intervals within said conversion period;

and

calculating benefit payments corresponding to said selected retirement benefits

[to] for said person during and after said conversion period, wherein said benefit payments

during said conversion period[is from contributions] are made from said assets and said

purchased benefits, and said benefit payments after said conversion period are provided by said

purchased benefits.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of accelerating said

conversion period such that the [entire] remaining allocated asset of said client[s] is [allocated

towards] applied to the purchase of said selected benefits at any time during said conversion

period.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of allowing said

person to accelerate said conversion period such that the [entire] remaining allocated assets of

said person are [is allocated towards] applied to the purchase of said selected benefits.

14. (Amended) A method for providing a client with a secure benefit account, said

method comprising the steps of:

identifying assets of said client employed towards purchase of plurality of

benefits in said benefits account;

receiving information from said client corresponding to [valuation of] said

benefits in said benefits account;

performing actuarial valuation so as to determine the value of each of said

benefits in said benefits account; and

allocating said identified assets towards the purchase of said benefits

based on said actuarial valuation of each of said benefits.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 15 wherein said step of receiving

information [form] from said client further comprises the step of receiving from said client at

enrollment and from time to time thereafter [health status and age] information from said client

so as to allow modifications of said benefits.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 16 further comprising the step of allowing

said client to modify [any] at least one of said benefits.

30. (Amended) A secure retirement system for providing a person with a secure[d] retirement program using assets owned by said person said system comprising:

an interactive component for enabling said person to respond to a plurality of decision queries, wherein at least one of said decision queries allows said person to select at least one [retirement] benefit for retirement from a plurality of different types of [retirement] said benefits available via said system;

a conversion component for allocating assets associated with said person towards purchase of said selected [retirement] benefit for retirement at selected intervals during a conversion period; and

a payment process component for providing benefit payments corresponding to said selected [retirement] benefits for retirement during and after said conversion period,

wherein said benefit payments during said conversion period are made [is] from [contributions made from] said assets and said purchased benefits, and said benefit payments after said conversion period are provided by said purchased benefits .

32. (Amended) The secure retirement system of claim 31, wherein said assets comprise a plurality of asset categories from a group consisting of qualified plans, home equity, annuities, life insurance, personal equity [ies] and [personal] fixed income investments.

33. (Amended) The secure retirement system of claim 32, wherein said asset categories are coupled to a plurality of asset vehicle accounts from a group of accounts consisting of IRA, annuity, reverse mortgage [and] mutual fund and brokerage accounts.

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35. (Amended) The secure retirement system of claim 31, wherein said decision queries comprise a choice of decisions from a group consisting of a conversion period decision, an asset vehicle decision, a collar decision, a benefit index decision, a pension benefit decision, a survivor benefit decision, a caregiver benefit decision, a long term care benefit decision, a legacy income payment decision, and a legacy lump sum payment decision.

37. (Amended) The secure retirement system of claim 34, further comprising:

an actuarial valuation component for performing actuarial valuation at said selected intervals so as to determine the value of each of said benefits [to be] purchased during said conversion period ; and

a valuation of asset vehicle component for calculating the market value of remaining assets to be converted during the remaining portion of said conversion period.

Please add the following claims:

-- 40. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said desired portion of said assets is the entire amount of said asset.

41.. A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the step of making benefit payments in accordance with said calculating step.

42. A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing a stop/loss indication information; and

accelerating said conversion step when the market value of said investment

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vehicles reaches a predefined threshold level.

43.   The method in accordance with claim 42 wherein said predefined threshold level corresponds to a desired high market value.

44.   The method in accordance with claim 42 wherein said predefined threshold level corresponds to a desired low market value.

45.   The method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the step of modifying the length of said conversion period at any time during said conversion period.

46.   The method in accordance with claim 5 further comprising the step of allowing a user to select a benefit program payment index for said benefits.

47.   The method in accordance with claim 7 further comprising the step of selecting by said person desired benefits to be received.

48.   The method in accordance with claim 12 further comprising the step of enabling a user to select specific probabilities and to review results corresponding to said selections.

49.   The method in accordance with claim 14 further comprising the step of specifying a collar corresponding to a range of target incomes a user intends to receive.

50.   The method in accordance with claim 20 further comprising the step of making

Claims

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for providing a person with a secure retirement program using assets owned by said person, comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one desired benefit for retirement from a group of available benefits;

specifying a conversion period for allocating a desired portion of said assets to said selected benefits during said conversion period;

allocating portions of said assets among investment vehicles and towards purchasing a fraction of said selected benefits at selected intervals within said conversion period; and

calculating benefit payments corresponding to said selected retirement benefits for said person during and after said conversion period, wherein said benefit payments during said conversion period are made from said assets and said purchased benefits, and said benefit payments after said conversion period are provided by said purchased benefits.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of accelerating said conversion period such that the remaining allocated asset of said client is applied to the purchase of said selected benefits at any time during said conversion period.

3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of allowing said person to accelerate said conversion period such that the remaining allocated assets of said person are

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applied to the purchase of said selected benefits.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of querying said person with a plurality of decisions concerning the types of benefits desired by said person.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of querying further comprises the step of allowing a person to select at least one retirement benefit from a group consisting of pension benefit, survivor pension benefit, caregiver income benefit, legacy income benefit, legacy lump sum benefit and long term care benefit.

6. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of querying said person a choice of conversion periods for allocating said person's asset towards said selected benefits.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of selecting a plurality of conversion periods corresponding to a plurality of different assets owned by said person.

8. The method according to claim 7 further comprising the step of receiving health status and age information from said person.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of allowing said person to select at least one asset vehicle account and one investment vehicle from a plurality of asset vehicle accounts and investment vehicles.

10.   The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

performing actuarial valuation at said selected intervals so as to determine the

value of each of said benefits to be purchased during said conversion period ;

calculating the market value of remaining assets to be converted during the

remaining portion of said conversion period; and

allocating said identified assets towards the purchase of said benefits based on

said actuarial valuation of each of said benefits.

11.   The method according to claim 10 further comprising the step of simulating

results of conversion for various hypothetical conversion periods and various desired benefits

using investment vehicles specified by said person, said simulation step employing a plurality of

random market scenarios .

12.   The method according to claim 11 further comprising the step of employing a

statistical analysis to determine probabilities of achieving desired benefits at the end of said

hypothetical conversion periods.

13.   The method according to claim 10 further comprising the step of allowing said

client to modify any one of said benefits.

14.   A method for providing a client with a secure benefit account, said method

comprising the steps of:

identifying assets of said client employed towards purchase of plurality of

benefits in said benefits account;

receiving information from said client corresponding to said

benefits in said benefits account;

performing actuarial valuation so as to determine the value of each of said

benefits in said benefits account; and

allocating said identified assets towards the purchase of said benefits

based on said actuarial valuation of each of said benefits.

15.   The method according to claim 14 further comprising the step of identifying a

plurality of benefits desired by said client.

16.   The method according to claim 15 wherein said step of receiving information

from said client further comprises the step of receiving from said client at enrollment

and from time to time thereafter information from said client so as to allow modifications of

said benefits.

17.   The method according to claim 16 wherein said step of receiving information

from said client further comprises the step of receiving said client's choice of asset vehicle

account.

18.   The method according to claim 17 further comprising the step of receiving said

client's choice of investment vehicles in said asset vehicle account.

19. The method according to claim 16 further comprising the step of allowing said client to modify at least one of said benefits.

20. The method according to claim 19 further comprising the step of calculating benefit payments to said client and providing results of said calculations corresponding to a change in said benefits.

21. The method according to claim 20 wherein said step of calculating benefit payments further comprises the step of actuarially evaluating the value of each of said benefits to be modified by said client.

22. The method according to claim 21 further comprising the step of receiving an instruction from said client to modify a benefit in said client's benefit account.

23. The method according to claim 22 further comprising the step of employing a regulation database for evaluating the value of each of said benefits to be modified by said client.

24. The method according to claim 23 further comprising the step of allowing said client to allocate said client's assets towards at least one of said benefits from a group of benefits consisting of pension payments, survivor pension payments, caregiver income payments, legacy income payments, legacy lump sum payments and long term care payments.

25.   The method according to claim 24 wherein said step of modifying said benefits

includes the step of increasing benefit payments corresponding to one of said benefits and

decreasing benefit payments corresponding to another one of said benefits.

26.   The method according to claim 21 further comprising a step of gradually

allocating said assets of said client towards the purchase of said benefits during a conversion

period as set forth by said client.

27.   The method according to claim 26 further comprising the step of allowing said

client to allocate said assets to a choice of a plurality of investment vehicles in various asset

vehicle accounts.

28.   The method according to claim 27 further comprising the step of simulating

results of conversion for various hypothetical conversion periods and various desired benefit

and investment vehicle scenarios.

29.   The method according to claim 28 further comprising the step of employing a

statistical analysis to determine probabilities of achieving desired benefits at the end of said

conversion periods.

30.   A secure retirement system for providing a person with a secure retirement

program using assets owned by said person said system comprising:

        an interactive component for enabling said person to respond to a plurality of

decision queries, wherein at least one of said decision queries allows said person to select at

least one benefit for retirement from a plurality of different types of said benefits available via

said system;

a conversion component for allocating assets associated with said person towards

purchase of said selected benefit for retirement at selected intervals during a

conversion period; and

a payment process component for providing benefit payments corresponding to

said selected benefits for retirement during and after said conversion period, wherein said

benefit payments during said conversion period are made from

said assets and said purchased benefits, and said benefit payments after said conversion period

are provided by said purchased benefits .

31. The secure retirement system of claim 30, wherein said interactive element is an

Internet Web site.

32. The secure retirement system of claim 31, wherein said assets comprise a

plurality of asset categories from a group consisting of qualified plans, home equity, annuities,

life insurance, personal equity and fixed income investments.

33. The secure retirement system of claim 32, wherein said asset categories are

coupled to a plurality of asset vehicle accounts from a group of accounts consisting of IRA,

annuity, reverse mortgage mutual fund and brokerage accounts.

34.   The secure retirement system of claim 33 wherein said asset vehicle accounts include investment vehicles from a group of investment vehicles consisting of money market funds, bond funds, index funds, market linked deposits and stocks.

35.   The secure retirement system of claim 31, wherein said decision queries comprise a choice of decisions from a group consisting of a conversion period decision, an asset vehicle decision, a collar decision, a benefit index decision, a pension benefit decision, a survivor benefit decision, a caregiver benefit decision, a long term care benefit decision, a legacy income payment decision, and a legacy lump sum payment decision.

36.   The secure retirement system of claim 31, wherein said conversion component allows acceleration of said conversion period such that the entire remaining asset of said client is allocated towards the purchase of said selected benefits at any time during said conversion period.

37.   The secure retirement system of claim 34, further comprising:
        an actuarial valuation component for performing actuarial valuation at said selected intervals so as to determine the value of each of said benefits purchased during said conversion period ; and
        a valuation of asset vehicle component for calculating the market value of remaining assets to be converted during the remaining portion of said conversion period.

38.   The secure retirement system of claim 37 further comprising a simulation

process component for simulating results of conversion for various hypothetical conversion periods and various desired benefits using investment vehicles specified by said person, said simulation process component employing a plurality of random market scenarios.

39.   The secure retirement system of claim 38 wherein said simulation process component employs a statistical analysis to determine probabilities of achieving desired benefits at the end of said hypothetical conversion periods.

40.   A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said desired portion of said assets is the entire amount of said asset.

41.   A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the step of making benefit payments in accordance with said calculating step.

42.   A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

        providing a stop/loss indication information; and

        accelerating said conversion step when the market value of said investment vehicles reaches a predefined threshold level.

43.   The method in accordance with claim 42 wherein said predefined threshold level corresponds to a desired high market value.

44.   The method in accordance with claim 42 wherein said predefined threshold level

corresponds to a desired low market value.

45.   The method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the step of

modifying the length of said conversion period at any time during said conversion

period.

46.   The method in accordance with claim 5 further comprising the step of allowing a

user to select a benefit program payment index for said benefits.

47.   The method in accordance with claim 7 further comprising the step of selecting

by said person desired benefits to be received.

48.   The method in accordance with claim 12 further comprising the step of enabling

a user to select specific probabilities and to review results corresponding to said selections.

49.   The method in accordance with claim 14 further comprising the step of specifying

a collar corresponding to a range of target incomes a user intends to receive.

50.   The method in accordance with claim 20 further comprising the step of making

benefit payments in accordance with said calculating step.

51.   The method in accordance with claim 32 wherein said personal equity includes

mutual funds.

52. The method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising the step of maintaining regulations concerning said benefit payments; and

applying said regulations during said step of calculating said benefit payments.

53. The method in accordance with claim 52 wherein said regulations comprise applicable tax laws.

54. The method in accordance with claim 16 further comprising the step of modifying said benefits by at least one of said client's survivor.